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Message Text

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50
ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 MMS-01 /071 R

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AF/E:WBCOOTE
PM - MR. GOODBY
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
DODE
---------- 024503
R 130004Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055968

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SE, UK, XO, PFOR, MP
SUBJECT: RETURN OF BIOT ISLANDS TO SEYCHELLES

REF: STATE 38095

1. BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR JOHN WILBERFORCE, ON INSTRUC-
TION FROM LONDON, INFORMED US THAT HMG HAS DECIDED IN VIEW
OF US POSITION EXPRESSED TO THOMSON (REFTEL) TO POSTPONE
DECISION ON RETURN OF THREE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY
ISLAND GROUPS (ALDABRA, FARQUHAR, ISLE DES ROCHES) TO
SEYCHELLES UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION OF SEYCHELLES CONSTITU-
TIONAL CONFERENCE. HMG EXPECTS TO COME UNDER CONSIDERABLE
PRESSURE AT CONFERENCE WHICH BEGINS MARCH 14, BUT PLANS TO
MAINTAIN POSITION THAT HMG ADHERES TO 1966 BIOT AGREEMENT
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AND CANNOT CONSIDER POLICY CHANGE UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATIONS

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WITH US.

2. WILBERFORCE WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO INFORM US THAT HMG WOULD WANT TO CONSULT WITH US AFTER THE CONFERENCE AND BEFORE MANCHAM'S VISIT TO U.S. SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6-7.

3. IN INFORMAL EXCHANGE, WILBERFORCE SAID TREND OF OPINION IN LONDON SEEMED TO BE IN FAVOR OF TURNING ISLANDS BACK TO SEYCHELLES, THE MAIN CONSIDERATION BEING THE AVOIDANCE OF A CONFRONTATION WITH A NEWLY INDEPENDENT SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT. WILBERFORCE FELT THAT LATE APRIL WOULD BE A

SUITABLE TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, ISLAND CLAIMS, BIOT ISLANDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GTCHURCHILL:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750088-0454
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750354/aaaabway.tel
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Reference: 75 STATE 38095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF BIOT ISLANDS TO SEYCHELLES
TAGS: PFOR, SE, UK, XO, MP
To: LONDON PORT LOUIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006